

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 EB-11 FEA-02 COME-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 STR-08 /052 W

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R 030813Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2447

UNCLAS MANILA 3930

FOR EA/PHL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EXP, OVIP, RP (MATHAY, PONCIANO)

SUBJ: FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR VISIT OIL INDUSTRY

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN MATHAY

1. OIL INDUSTRY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN PONCIANO  
MATHAY HAS BEEN LEADING CANDIDATE FOR IV GRANT  
BUT HAS BEEN UNABLE ARRANGE TRAVEL AS GRANTEE.  
HE HAS INSTEAD ASKED EMBASSY ARRANGE VISIT TO  
WASHINGTON FOR THREE TO FOUR DAYS BEGINNING O/A  
MAY 6 AS PART OF THREE WEEK VISIT TO U.S. TRAVEL  
WILL BE ENTIRELY AT MATHAY'S EXPENSE. WOULD LIKE  
TO CONSULT WITH COUNTERPART AGENCIES IN U.S.  
ENGAGED IN REGULATION, INSPECTION AND ANY FORM OF  
CONTROL OVER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ESPECIALLY FIXING OR  
CONTROL OF PRICES. AGENCIES (E.G. FEO) CONCERNED  
WITH PRICES OF CRUDE AND REFINED PRODUCTS WOULD BE  
OF PARTICULAR INTEREST AS WOULD STATE (EA/PHL AND EB)  
AND COMMERCE DEPT. MATHAY WILL CONTACT CUTHELL EA/PHL  
UPON ARRIVAL. IN MEANTIME EMBASSY HOPES EA/PHL CAN  
SET UP TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND ADVISE VARIOUS OFFICES  
OF MATHAY'S IMPENDING VISIT.

2. MATHAY DPOB 12/11/30, MANILA, IS LAW GRADUATE OF  
UNIV OF PHILIPPINES AND RECEIVED LL.M. FROM YALE (1954).  
HE HAS BEEN LAWYER, LAW PROFESSOR, PRESIDENTIAL  
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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.

SERVED BRIEFLY AS ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND ACTING SECRETARY OF JUSTICE. HE HELD PRESENT POSITION SINCE 1971. HE NOT BEEN TO U.S. SINCE 1954. HAS TRAVELLED TO WESTERN EUROPE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR PLEASURE. WHILE OIC NO LONGER HAS KEY ROLE IN FORMULATING OIL POLICIES IN PHILIPPINES AS RESULT ESTABLISHMENT OF PHIL NATIONAL OIL CO, IT CONTINUES TO OCCUPY IMPORTANT POSITION IN DECIDING QUESTIONS OF PRICES AND RELATED ISSUES WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY AFFECT U.S. COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. VISIT BY MATHAY TO U.S. WOULD NOT ONLY ENABLE HIM TO GAIN NEW APPRECIATION OF CHANGED U.S. INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC POSITION BUT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE VALUABLE EXPOSURE TO ALL ASPECTS OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC POLICIES REGARDING PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

3. REALIZE THAT LEAD TIME EXTREMELY SHORT BUT MATHAY ON TIGHT SCHEDULE AND MUST TRAVEL WHEN WORKLOAD PERMITS. CONSIDERING HIS ROLE IN FUTURE OIL PRICE POLICY AND VALUE AS CONTACT FOR EMBASSY AND INDUSTRY AS WHOLE, EMBASSY BELIEVES FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE AMPLY JUSTIFIED. MATHAY ALSO BELIEVED HAVE POTENTIAL FOR BROADER ROLE IN GOP SERVICE RELATED TO HIS EXPERIENCE IN EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND DEPT OF JUSTICE.

4. WE ALSO INFORMING AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES WHO HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ARRANGE INDUSTRY BRIEFINGS DURING MATHAY VISIT. COMPANIES WILL BE REQUESTED TO COORDINATE PROGRAMS WITH EA/PHL. WE ASSUME COMPANY PROGRAMS WILL BE OUTSIDE OF WASHINGTON.

5. REQUEST URGENT DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATION IN VIEW SHORT TIME MATHAY PLANS TO TRAVEL.  
SULLIVAN

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